Someone you know

A Publication by Ground Zero

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM REVEREND MEL WHITE ON HATE CRIMES

Gays and lesbians need to be included in "Hate Crimes" laws, but it is even more important to see how ignorance and intolerance on a national scale contribute to the hostile climate that aids and abets such crimes.

In March, 1995, the Reverend Pat Robertson told me that he "abhors violence against homosexuals," and I believe him. He and other anti-gay crusaders may be sincere when they talk of "loving the sinner and hating the sin."

But they go on to blame gay and lesbian Americans (quite falsely) for every sin you can think of - from child molestation to mass murder, from "undermining the traditional family" to "the destruction of American values."

Those religious and political leaders are too committed to their current course to deal honestly with the growing mountain of evidence that homosexual orientation, like heterosexual orientation, isn't a choice or something to be changed, but a gift from God to be accepted, celebrated and lived with integrity.

Threatened by that new truth, they misuse a handful of biblical verses outside their historical context to stir up the kind of fear that raises money and mobilizes volunteers.

Worse, they can't seem to understand (or don't seem to care) that their firey words against "the sin" may be interpreted as giving permission for the terrible act of discrimination and violence against "the sinners."

I don't know that Robert Acrement, the man who confessed to killing Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdil of Medford, Oregon on December 4, ever heard the anti-gay rhetoric of the 700 Club. But after reading his confession, published in newspapers across the country, I have to wonder.

After telling how he bound and gagged the two women, side by side in the back of their own pick-up truck, he said, "All of a sudden, I just looked down (at the women) and had that feeling."

What feeling? "I don't care for lesbians," he told a reporter. "I couldn't help but think that she's 54 years old and had been dating that woman for 12 years; isn't that sick?"

Mourn with me the murder of my two friends in Oregon. But don't see Mr. Acrement as an isolated hater whose ignorance and intolerance have nothing to do with the rest of us.

How different from him are the pastors and priests who condemn gay and lesbian Christians from the pulpits of their churches or refuse to ordain even the most qualified to minister?

How different from Mr. Acrement are the parents who condemn, reject or discard their gay and lesbian children, or the employers who fire them, or the landlords who change their locks?

How different from him are the school officials who break contracts with able gay and lesbian teachers, or close down gay and lesbian counseling offices, or end sexual orientation and AIDS education programs? How different from Mr. Acrement are the president, Congress and the military leaders who waste millions of dollars discharging gay and lesbian military personnel who serve their country with honor, dignity and courage?

How different from him is the person who tells a mean-spirited, anti-gay joke at the water cooler or signs a petition for another anti-gay ballot measure?

When, by our silence or neutrality, we allow such ignorance and intolerance to go unconfronted, we share in the blame for all the horror, heartbreak and violence that follows.

We are all Americans, gay and straight alike, with the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness guaranteed us by our Creator and and by the laws of this great land.

It is time to overcome our fears, show some courage and take our stand against ignorance and intolerance wherever we may find them.

It is time to ensure that all Americans are treated equally under the law and that motives for violence toward another human being be seriously considered when a violent crime is charged.

Whether Mr. Acrement heard the words of the 700 Club, we don't know. But we do know the that the intolerance and anti-gay rhetoric that spews from Reverend Pat Robertson and other Political Religious Extremists has permeated this society and certainly incites some to do violence against their brothers and sisters. This must stop; and if it doesn't stop at the mouths of the inciters, it must stop through the laws that govern this land, laws that are intended to stop these "hate crimes" from happening to someone you know.

Reverend Mel White of Ennis, Texas, is the author of Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay And Christian In America. He is Minister of Jisutice for the United Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and a former ghost writer of books for Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Billy Graham and Oliver North.

A Few Words From The Editor

You may notice a slightly different angle to the contents of this insert. In our first Someone You Know, we promised to put faces on the issues important to the gay community. So, when we decided to focus this issue on hate crimes and hate groups, in light of SB 191, the "Hate Crimes Bill" presently before the state legislature, personal stories of people who had been gay-bashed were solicited. We knew this was a painfully sore topic, but precisely how deeply this wound was infected no one could have known.

About a month ago, I began to solicit people I knew for interviews who were assaulted because of their orientation; people who were attacked, stripped, kicked, beat with fists, bats, poles and inquisition-type instruments, until the injuries, breaks, lacerations and internal injuries lead to unconsciousness, hospitalization and, in some cases, surgery.

Their only crime was that they were perceived to be gay by their attackers. Attackers, who consciously chose to go out on a specific night and "bash" an individual who was gay. A night of fun, a time to show off for their friends, an opportunity to gain approval from their peers. Then, when the victim could no longer pull himself off the pavement, one last kick or blow to the body finished the job. They laughed, congratulated each other, and left the scene of the crime satisfied that they had shown another gay person who was "right."

Scene of the crime. A crime that should be reported, investigated and the criminals brought to justice. But in this case the victim becomes the criminal within the legal system. In order for the assault to be reported, the victim must declare his or her name, and the cause of the attack. The statement "I was attacked because I was gay" becomes public record, a record that anyone, an employer, a landlord or reporter, can access. The person is not only victimized once, they are victimized many times over for simply doing their civic duty and reporting a crime.

Fear of being outted, of loosing a job, an apartment or even family, binds many gays and lesbians to silence about the crimes committed against them. Crime are not reported, and incidents are ignored in an effort to "put it behind and get on with life." But like any wound not properly tended to, it festers. The victim becomes imprisoned in a fear and a silence that is personally and socially unhealthy.

If somehow the victims could be protected so criminals could be brought to justice, if hate crime laws held stiffer penalties, if those spewing hateful and bigoted rhetoric were held accountable for the violence their words incite, perhaps people would think twice about acting out their prejudices. Perhaps more crimes would be reported and more convictions would create a greater deterrent for prospective "bashers.'

Rhetoric incites fear. Fear becomes hate. Hate turns into violence. Violence spreads fear. Fear becomes hate. Hate turns into violence, and the cycle continues. It must be stopped. SB 191 takes a giant step toward tapering the increase in hate crimes by designating stiffer penalties for bias-motivated crimes.

If we can't teach our children and youth not to act out their prejudices, then perhaps stricter laws can. We must stop this cycle. Stories we need to hear are not being told, for fear of the violence. Not one person I asked would tell their story, not even anonymously, for fear of being recognized and becoming victims all over again.

Stop the rhetoric. Stop the hate. Too many innocent, beautiful human being are being hurt, killed, and imprisoned in silence because of it.

With this insert we have tried to identify for you the groups and individuals that incite violence and spread biased and destructive information that creates atmospheres of fear and intolerance. Read it, recognize it. Then let's all come together to stop it. Someone you know could be their next victim.

THE NORTHWEST COALITION AGAINST MALICIOUS HARASSMENT SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HATE CRIMES

The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment (NWC) was formed in 1987, in response to the increased development of white-supremacist and racist groups in that region. The states of the coalition are: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. In January of 1995, Colorado officially joined the coalition after state civil rights and progressive organizations petitioned the NWC when an increase of hate crimes and incidences and types of activities similar to those in the Northwest markedly increased in Colorado.

Racism and bigotry have been a part of the American society since our country began. Great progress has been made to combat this injustice; however much more needs to be done.

Moreover, in the past two decades, there has appeared a new form of this old problem which wants to divide our society through violence and hate. Identifying Jewish people, people of color - especially African-Americans -and members of the gay/lesbian community as their special targets, these white supremacists want to overthrow the American form of government and reinterpret the American dream so that it applies only to white people.

These supremacists, including those who are followers of the Christian Identity theology and driven by an urgency that they perceive to be God-given, frequently put their rhetoric into action that results in violence and crime. Their organizations also provide a haven for vulnerable persons who are struggling with modern life and need scapegoats for the problems they face in a complex society. Young people are especially susceptible. From August of 1992 through September of 1993, racist skinheads were known to be involved in at least 7 murders in the Northwest.

The number of racist skinhead gangs and white supremacists is growing in Colorado, as people move here from large urban areas. Big city gangs such as the Cryps, the Bloods, Aryan Youth and White Aryan Resistance Youth (WAR) and neo-Nazi's have found their way into Colorado and Colorado Springs through people's natural migration patterns.

Studies by the American Anti-Defamation League (ADL) report that WAR has been recruiting skinheads in Colorado. Racists Skinheads (there are skinheads who are not racists) in Colorado, including Colorado Springs, have participated in rallies organized by the Colorado KKK, notably the Martin Luther King Jr. rallies in Denver.

A frightening fact uncovered by the ADL indicates that youth do not out-grow these racist gangs, as some would hopefully think, they grow into adult racists gangs, such as WAR, Aryan Nation, Christian Patriot Movement, adopt racists philosophies, such as The Christian Identity theology. Shawn Slater, head of the Colorado KKK, is himself a former skinhead.

In 1976, Richard Butler purchased 20 acres of property in the wooded hills of Hayden Lake, Idaho, and set up the Church of Jesus Christ Christian, Aryan Nations. During the early 1980's he drew several hundred people into his dream of making the Northwest into a white

Aryan homeland. The crime and violence of Order 1 in 1983-1984 was an attempt to implement that dream as were subsequent crime sprees in 1986 and 1990. While the leadership of Richard Butler has declined in recent years, and the Hayden Lake compound is no longer a serious threat, the dream of the white Aryan Northwest is very much alive and searching for a new leader.

Dissatisfaction with federal and state governments has lead to an increase of Christian Patriot type groups in this region. Under the banner of patriotism and Christianity, these anti-Semitic individuals look to sparsely populated rural areas to develop and man their organizations.

A very disturbing development in past few years is the establishment by Bo Gritz of a Christian Patriot Community in Idaho County, Idaho. His para-military type training, doomsday predictions and divisive and hateful rhetoric are a dangerous combination that could easily inspire individuals to step beyond the exercise of their own rights and freedoms into the criminal violation of the rights of others.

The racist skinheads are seen as the new soldiers of the racist movement and are being actively encouraged by the adult leaders such as Tom Metzger of WAR. While their numbers remain small - 300-500 in the Northwest - they have a serious impact because of their violence. Also, often young people become attached to racist skinhead groups in an attempt to find a solution to their problems of isolation and anger.

The supremacist movement is not the only source of bias crimes. Incidents of malicious harassment have occurred around the region - on campuses, in the streets, in the home, in businesses and in places of worship. Often the perpetrators are angry, frustrated people who are threatened by the diversity around them and strike out against it.

But whether committed by a supremacist, gang member or a neighbor, a bias crime deeply violates its victims and further divides our communities.

As anti-gay initiatives are being promoted across the country we are experiencing a new wave of bias crimes. Society's strongest defense against these crimes includes legislation that ensures stiffer penalties for crimes that are biased motivated, and an awareness and involvement that unites citizens against this encroachment of hate and violence into their community.

The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, P.O Box 16776, Seattle, WA 98116, (voice) 206 233-9136 (fax) 206 233-0611, Bill Wassmuth, Executive Director

AN ADMIRABLE TRAIT

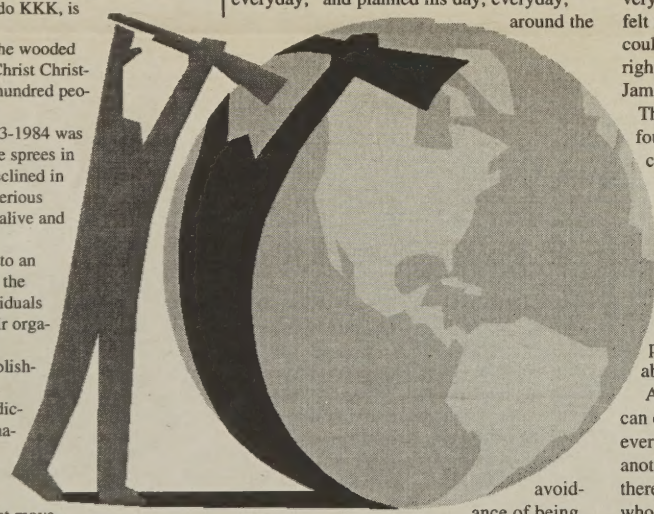
by David Torrey

Why doesn't every gay and bisexual person come out of the closet? The answer is that fear and terror can, and has, kept us imprisoned. Sometimes we fear that if we did come out there would be no way to protect ourselves from what will happen. Yet, there are people in our society who choose to call upon that most admirable trait we all possess: courage. Against all odds, they do what they feel is right and tell the truth of who they are.

"There are people in our society who choose to call upon that most admirable trait we all possess: courage."

Jamie Nabozny, of Ashland, Wisconsin, is just such a person. From 7th to 11th grades, at Ashland Middle and High Schools, Jamie was harassed, spit on, mock-raped, urinated on, called "fag" by teachers, and kicked repeatedly in the stomach by his fellow students while others laughed, all because he is gay. Not only did Jamie show courage by coming out in the midst of these atrocities, but now, at age 20, he continues his struggle for justice by following through with a lawsuit against the school, its administrators and its principals for lack of protection from the constant abuse.

The name calling started when Jamie's classmates learned of the possibility that he was sexually abused by a minister when that case went public. As verbal abuse led to physical abuse, Jamie says, "I lived in fear everyday," and planned his day, everyday, around the



avoidance of being accosted.

At first, the abusive classmates just assumed he was gay. But, Jamie says, he finally came out to them because, whether he was he was gay didn't matter, what was happening to him wasn't right, and shouldn't happen to anyone. He even believed that by stating his sexual orientation, the abuse might stop.

Jamie couldn't have been more wrong. The first time he went to school authorities, he told them he was gay and demanded action. For a short time, the abuse stopped then started again, worse than before. Jamie turned to his parents.

As early as the sixth grade, Jamie knew he was gay and had come out to his parents. Stunned at first, they now accept and support him completely. Initially, Jamie admits, he didn't want to tell them everything that was happening because he "...just wanted to forget it." But when he finally approached his parents and the Naboznys complained to the school, the principal told them that "boys will be boys, " and if Jamie "...was going to be so openly gay, he had to expect this kind of stuff to happen."

Repeatedly, the Naboznys requested something be done about the abuse. Repeatedly school officials did nothing. So, in 11th grade, after years of daily torment, on the advice of a guidance counselor and with the blessing of his parents, Jamie dropped out of school.

Moving on with his life, Jamie relocated to Minneapolis, Minn., and earned his GED. He plans to start college and one of his goals is to work with gay youth. He asserts that his life has improved in all areas but what happened will be with him for the rest of his life. The first time he considered filing a lawsuit was after moving to Minneapolis, when he learned that what had happened to him in high school was illegal.

"I didn't realize what was being done to me was illegal or wrong." Jamie admits, "I just thought, 'it's a small town; they're just very prejudiced and homophobic.' I almost felt it was OK what they did to me, that they could get away with it. I knew it wasn't right, but I didn't know it was illegal." So Jamie filed a lawsuit against the school.

The case lost the first round when a judge found in favor of the school. The way Wisconsin law seems to read, adults are protected under the law, but not children and teenagers.The judge also claimed the law does not protect someone in a "public" school, even though children are required by law to attend school.

At first, Jamie did not want to appeal, but after receiving an out-pouring of support, he realized this case was not just about him anymore.

According to Wisconsin law, this abuse can continue. Jamie said he needs to do whatever he can to prevent this from happening to another student. He has become aware that there are other gay youths across the country who have experienced this type of abuse, some have even died at the hands of their peers, and will continue to do so, unless this type of harassment stops now. He knows for this to happen, he cannot be silent. So, Jamie valiantly delivers his story to the world.

As a boy, Jamie showed strength and courage by standing up for the truth and fighting for what he believes in. Now, as a young man, he continues his quest for justice, not only for himself, but for others like him, so that we all may have a safer and freer world to live in.

David Torrey is a free-lance writer and a full time student at Pikes Peak Community College.

FACTS AND BRIEFINGS

WHAT IS A HATE CRIME

A crime is classified as bias-motivated, or "hate crime," when it is clear that the offender's actions were motivated in whole or in part by bias. The mere fact that the offender is biased against the victim's race. religion, ethnic origin, and/or sexual orientation does not designate the action as a "hate crime." It must be proven as a factor in the motivation for the crime.

From 1990 to 1993, the reported incidence in hate crimes against gays, lesbians and bisexuals in Colorado rose every year. After the passage of Amendment 2, there was 275% increase in reports of hate crimes.

SB 191, the "Hate Crimes" bill, would expand Colorado's Ethnic Intimidation Law to include disability, age and sexual orientation.

STATE OF COLORADO SENATE BILL 191

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE CRIME OF ETHNIC INTIMIDATION, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CHANGING THE NAME OF THE CRIME TO A HATE CRIME.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments which may be subsequently adopted.)

Expands the crime of ethnic intimidation to include intimidating a person because of that person's actual or perceived characteristics, including physical or mental disability, age, or sexual orientation, and changes the name of the crime to a hate crime. Adds following a person, repeatedly calling a person, and harassment by stalking to the list of actions that constitute a hate crime. Make harassment by stalking, when committed as a hate crime, a class 5 felony.

Makes conforming amendments.

VIOLENT TIMES

Across the nation, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's Klanwatch Project in Montgomery, Ala., the number of hate crimes in general rose 25% from 1993 to 1994, and anti-gay bias attacks account for more that 25% of those incidents.

But nearly two thirds of the 18 murders the group recorded were of gay men. A national study of gay bashers issued in March 1995, by the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, found that 28% of reported incidents resulted in minor injury, 16% required hospitalization. Three percent of the bashings were fatal. *Someone you know could be brutally murdered simply because of who they are, who they love, simply because they are gay.*

GAY-BASHING

According to Gregory Herek, a research psychologist at the University of California, Davis, an expert on anti-gay hate crimes, a study done in the 80s indicated that, in many cases, murdered gay men were murdered several time over - stabbed, beaten, and shot repeatedly - when one of these assaults would have been enough to kill.

"This suggests very intense rage on the part of the attacker," Herek told *The Advocate*, a national gay and lesbian magazine. "The tendency to outnumber the victim is dramatic," he said. "They have a real advantage in terms of size and strength and weapons."

"Homophobic homicides now outpace racial homicides," according to Brian Levin, associate director of the Klanwatch. "These crimes appear to be a bit more premeditated that hate crimes generally," he continued. "People get together for an evening and as a part of the social 'event' and seek to hunt down a victim that they perceive to be gay. When they get caught up in a group frenzy, they become more brutal and the accountability is diffused across the group. It also becomes an activity where they get peer validation from (the brutality.)"

"For many," Levin said, "gays are a legitimate target for aggression, and that seems to be validated by what people hear in the political and cultural arena."

MYTH & FACT ABOUT THE MILITIA MOVEMENT

MYTH #1 - *Millions of Americans are involved in a broad-based "militia movement" that is sweeping the country.*
FACT - The most reliable estimate of active membership in militia groups is 25,000 to 50,000 individuals. A larger number of people contribute money to militia groups and receive their literature but are not active members. Militia groups are active in practically every state, although in many places the number of people involved is quite small.

MYTH #2 - *Militias are something new, never before seen in the United States.*
FACT - The idea that the Second Amendment to the constitution gives individuals the right to form private armies to overthrow the government, or do battle with anti-American "subversives," is not new. This concept was popular more than 30 years ago among members of the anti-communist, paramilitary group, the Minutemen. The group stockpiled weapons and explosives and its leader, Robert DePugh, was sentenced to 11 years in jail in 1969 for violating federal firearms laws and jumping bail. Groups like the Posse Comitatus, which was formed in 1969, (See box below) also believed in forming militias to fight the IRS and other government agencies.

MYTH #3 - *Militias are not influenced by racism or anti-Semitism.*
FACT - Some of the most prominent militia leaders have definite links to white supremacist hate groups like the Idaho-based Aryan Nations. Many other militia leaders promote the racist and anti-Semitic "religion," known as Christian Identity, which teaches that Jews are Satanic, blacks and other minorities are subhuman and white Christians are descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel. Of the 328 militias and their support groups active nationwide, approximately one out of five--44 groups--have known ties to racist hate groups, according to the Klan-watch project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. While some militia leaders deny these connections, hate group literature denouncing blacks, Jews and other minority groups is widely sold and distributed at militia meetings. Most Militia groups also demand that the 14th Amendment be abolished. Both the 13th Amendment (which officially ended slavery) and the 14th Amendment (which guarantees equal protection under the law) were passed in the wake of the Civil War to ensure equal rights for blacks. Although militia leaders claim to be "patriots," there is nothing patriotic about racism or religious bigotry.

MYTH #4 - *Militia groups are defenders of the U.S. Constitution*
FACT - Militia groups talk about the Constitution, but in reality they want to be the ones to pick and choose what parts will be enforced. Many militia supporters reject all of the Amendments after the first ten, particularly the 14th Amendment which helped abolish discrimination against blacks.

MYTH #5 - *Militias give people the courage to stand up to government "tyranny."*
FACT - Militia leaders believe that practically every law passed by the federal government is illegal, for one reason or another. Then they tell their followers that these "illegal"laws are proof that America has become a dictatorship. The result is a recipe for disaster. As more militia members become heavily armed, they set the stage for future violent confrontations with government agents and law enforcement. Militia members may think they are fighting against government tyranny and abuse, but what they are really doing is taking the law into their own hands.

WHITE SUPREMACIST ORGANIZATIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES

as supplied by the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment

ARYAN NATIONS A specific neo-Nazi organization that is the political arm of the Church of Jesus Christ Christians, based in Hayden Lake, Idaho. Let by Richard Butler, Aryan Nations is one of the most notorious Christian Identity groups in the country, attempting to bridge the gap between neo-Nazi ideas and more traditionally American forms of white supremacy. Aryan Nations promotes the idea of creating a white radical homeland in the Pacific Northwest.

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY A racist North American theology movement. Adherents of Christian Identity believe that white northern Europeans are the true "Israelites," descended from the "Lost Tribes of Israel," that Jews are impostors and servants of Satan, and that people of color are an inferior, sub-species of humans.

CHRISTIAN PATRIOT A generic term used to describe various extreme right organizations and individuals. Used interchangeably with "Patriot," "Constitutionalist" and "Freeman," Christian Patriots believe in a variety of often anti-Semitic conspiracy theories; a literal and selective interpretation of the Constitution; and racist ideas about citizenship.

LEADERLESS RESISTANCE An idea promoted by Aryan Nations activist Louis Beam, Leaderless Resistance emphasizes the formation of small, independent parliamentary cell groups, not formally connected to any leadership. These independent cells choose their own missions, participating in a larger movement by reading and sharing literature, computer bulletin boards, phone messages and so on. The purpose of Leaderless Resistance is to insulate small "action groups" from infiltration or prosecution by lay enforcement.

THE ORDER A white supremacist terrorist organization founded by Robert Mathews in the early 1980s. Mathews was killed in a shoot-out with federal agents in Washington State in 1984, becoming a martyr to white supremacists. The Order was responsible for the assassination of a Jewish talk show host and a number of armored car robberies netting millions of dollars, most of which was never recovered.

POSSE COMITATUS. A Latin term meaning "Power of the Country." It is also the name of an ultra-conservative para-military group started in the 1960s. Like present day militia groups, the Posse Comitatus claimed that the Second Amendment gave them the right to form private armies. Posse Comitatus members believed that both the income tax and federal reserve banking system were unconstitutional, and Posse Comitatus members believed that both were part of a plot by "Jewish bankers" to destroy America. Because of strongly-held beliefs, Posse members often were involved in violent conflicts with authorities. When today's militia leaders claim that the sheriff is the highest form of law enforcement, they are echoing the beliefs of the Posse Comitatus, whether they know it or not.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the three words, Transsexual, Transgenderist and Transgendered persons are used interchangeably and are a matter of personal preference.

...that a transgendered/transgenderist/ transsexual person is a person who has a strong desire to express the gender identity opposite to his or her own anatomical make-up.Transsexuals often explain their situation by saying," I felt that I was really a woman trapped in a man's body," or, " I feel that I was a man trapped in a woman's body."

...transgendered people may live all or part of their lives as a person of the sex opposite to their birth anatomy, may choose medical options such as hormone treatment, (which can alter physical and mental characteristics) or may, in some cases, choose surgical alteration to create a new sexual identity.

...that a Transvestite is a man who enjoys dressing up as women or a woman who enjoys dressing up as a man.

... that Transvestites are not always homosexual. Some are heterosexual, some are bisexual and some consider themselves transgendered.

...that the sponsors of the hate crime bill include Senators Rupert, Linkhart, Martinez, Pascoe, Tanner, Thiebaut, and Weissmann and Representative DeGette.

GET INVOLVED

Making Your Vote Count: A Caucus Workshop

Citizens Project, the Pikes Peak Human Relations Coalition, Ground Zero and The NAACP will sponsor a workshop on the caucus system and how to get involved. Bob Gardner, Chairman of the El Paso County Republican party, Ed Raye, chairman of the El Paso County Democratic party, other party officials and the League of Women Voters will provide insight on how ordinary citizens can have an impact on the political process through caucuses. The Workshop will also explain the early and absentee voting process.

At Caucuses, members of the community begin the candidate selection process by electing delegates to county assemblies and conventions who best represent their views. only 2 percent of registered Colorado voters participate at the caucus level. However, those who do participate influence election outcomes far more than those who only vote in general elections. Getting involved in the caucus will enable you to make your vote count and your voice heard!

The caucus workshop will be held on **Thursday, March 21, 1996** from **6-8pm** at the **East Library and Information Center,** 5550 East Union.

For more information, call Citizens Project at 520-9899.

VOICES

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"The Earth is the mother of all people and all people should have equal rights upon it... I only ask of the Government to be treated as all other men are treated..."
Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, 1879

"...Yet, I keep my ideals because, in spite of everything I still believe people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death. ... I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again."
Anne Frank, July 15, 1944

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Mission Statement

GROUND ZERO

Dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian. gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying their participation in the community at large through education, coalition, and visibility.

SUSTAINING MEMBER–SPONSORS

Many individuals donated to the fund to support *Someone You Know.* Some chose to be ongoing sponsors on a monthly basis. They are:

D. Miller
Cynthia Heinicke

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Needmor Fund is a Colorado-based foundation that has as its primary goal the empowerment of those individuals whose basic rights to justice and opportunity are systematically ignored or denied through the funding of grassroots, community-based organizations.

The Chinook Fund is a publicly supported alternative foundation established to provide grants and technical assistance to Colorado grassroots organizations working for progressive social change

The Colin Higgins Fund, advised by the Tides Foundation, funds organizations seeking to effect progressive social change.

FUNDING EXCHANGE

The Funding Exchange is a partnership of activists and donors who came together in 1970 to find new ways to support social movements. They coined the phrase "change, not charity" because they believe in the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. Allies for Justice is one of their member groups.

The Gill Foundation is a Colorado-based private foundation funding gay, lesbian and bisexual organizations, AIDS organizations, social justice/ human rights advocacy organizations and activities in The Arts that educate about HIV/AIDS, gays, lesbians and bisexuals, and relationships between disenfranchised peoples.

PFLAG

The Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG is a non-profit, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, educational, counseling, business or political group.

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, their family and friends, through support to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal rights. **Meets 2nd Wed of each month, 6:30pm social, 7:00pm meeting time. Call 575-8658 for information.**

Someone You Know is underwritten in part by
Coors Brewing Company

Coors

If you or your business is interested in underwriting this insert, please call Ground Zero at 635-6086

Upcoming Events

The **AIDS Quilt** is coming to the **Colorado Springs City Auditorium May 16, 17, 18.** This is a rare opportunity and privilege to view the event that has touched tens of thousands of hearts across America. If you have a loved one who has died of AIDS and are interested in making a memorial square, please call PFLAG, 578-8658 or S-CAP, 578-9092.

Up in the Air

No one knows for sure when the Supreme Court decision on Amendment 2 will be announced, although it will probably be a Monday. But, regardless of the outcome of the decision, yea or nay, ***Ground Zero invites supporters to congregate at the Pride Center, 125 N. Parkside, any time after 4:00 p.m. on "D" day for either a party or protest.***

Yes! Count Me In!

I want to be a part of** Ground Zero's **project to counter the myths, lies and stereotypes by printing stories about real gays and lesbians and issues in Someone You Know to be inserted in The Independent monthly. There are two ways to help, by volunteering or by making a contribution:

❒ **Volunteer as a writer, editor or researcher.** ❒ **A One Time Donation of $_____.**

❒ **I want to be a Sustaining supporter in the amount of $_____ per month.**
(I have enclosed the first installment.)

❒ **I want to be listed in the insert as a monthly sponsor at $_____ per month (minimum $25).**
(Enclosed is my first Payment, bill me monthly.)

❒ **Charge my above contribution to my Visa Or Master Card.**
(Sustaining pledges will be automatically charged on the tenth of each month.)

Card Number_____**EXP. DATE**_____

Name/Name on Card_____**Phone #**_____

Street/Box_____**City**_____**State**_____**Zip**_____

If Sponsor, name to be listed_____**Signature**_____

Fill out the form, checking the appropriate box(es) and send to: Ground Zero, P.O. Box 1982, Colorado Springs, CO 80901